

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A colon cancer screening test comprising the steps of:
  - (a) establishing a baseline level of Peptide YY in a body fluid sample from a mammalian patient; and
  - (b) comparing the level of Peptide YY in a subsequent sample of the patient's body fluid with the baseline level as measured for the same body fluid; and
  - (c) wherein an elevated level of Peptide YY in the subsequent sample indicates a positive result for colon cancer.
2. The colon cancer screening test of claim 1, wherein step (a) is preceded by overnight fasting to eliminate variability due to food intake.
3. The colon cancer screening test of claim 1, wherein step (b) is preceded by overnight fasting to eliminate variability due to food intake.
4. The colon cancer screening test of claim 1, wherein step (a) is repeated on a time period selected from the group consisting of monthly, quarterly, semi-annually and annually.
5. The colon cancer screening test of claim 1, wherein step (b) is repeated on a time period selected from the group consisting of monthly, quarterly, semi-annually and annually.
6. The colon cancer screening test of claim 1, wherein the body fluid sample is blood.
7. The colon cancer screening test of claim 1, wherein the body fluid sample is plasma.

8. The colon cancer screening test of claim 1, wherein the body fluid sample is intestinal or fecal fluid.

9. The colon cancer screening test of claim 1, wherein the PYY levels are measured by a standard protocol for peptide analysis.

10. The colon cancer screening test of claim 9, wherein the standard protocol for peptide analysis is selected from the group consisting of radioimmunoassay (RIA), enzyme linked immunoassay (ELISA), and automated high performance liquid chromatographic analysis, other analytical chromatographic protocols, capillary electrophoresis, and mass spectrometry.